

136 is then withdrawn to a position exposing the electrode area required to ablate the tissue mass. Heat is generated in the target tissue from an electric current or electromagnetic field produced by the electrical conductor. Preferably, the volume of tissue being treated is controlled by moving the non-conductive sleeve to expose a selected length of electrode in the body tissue to be treated, the remaining area of the electrode remaining shielded by the sleeve to protect the intervening tissues. The amount and duration of the energy delivery is also varied to control the volume of tissue being treated. The current passes to a large surface area grounding plate contacting the outer skin surface. --

In the Claims:

Please replace claim 33 with the following:

33. A probe system comprising:  
an elongate member with a distal end and a proximal end;  
a handle at the proximal end of the elongate member;  
an electrode deployment device positioned at least partially in the elongate member and including at least one retractable electrode that is adapted to be inserted into tissue, adapted to penetrate tissue, and is adapted to extend to a selected mass, the electrode having a non-deployed state when positioned in the elongate member and a distended deployed state when advanced from the elongate member; and  
the at least one deployed electrode has at least one radius of curvature;  
wherein the at least one electrode is advanceable in and out of the elongate member.

In the Drawings:

Please add Figures 13, 14, and 15 submitted herewith.